

**INCREASING GRADUATION RATES
FOR ALL STUDENTS**



THE APEX GROUP GRAD SYSTEM
Graduation Rates Analyzing Data

The Apex Group GRAD (Graduation Rates Analyzing Data) System is an early identification and intervention protocol with the goal of promoting high school graduation while decreasing the student drop out rate.

The Apex Group GRAD System utilizes existing student data to identify students at risk of dropping out of school and assisting schools with interventions to promote on-time, successful graduation.

The Apex Group GRAD System provides educators and building leaders with data-driven identification tools and best practices for increasing graduation rates.

**WHAT MAKES THE APEX GROUP
GRAD SYSTEM DIFFERENT?**

- No expensive software or hardware to purchase
- Utilizes school-level data and information already collected and readily available
- Fully customizable for each individual school
- Unique intervention techniques for each student or school

STUDENT RISK TEMPLATE

GRAD System Legend
Green – Are Completely On-Track students in that their GPAs are 2.5 or greater and are potentially your students that will graduate on time with their Cohort. (Includes any students that graduated early with a Standard Diploma).
Light Green – Are On-Track students in that their GPAs are 2.2 to 2.4999 (Includes any students that graduated early with a Standard Diploma).
Yellow – Are BORDER-LINE AT-RISK students in that their GPA ranges from 2.0 – 2.1999 and could potentially have problems if they begin failing a course, etc...and need extra monitoring to stay on track for a timely graduation with their Cohort. (Includes any students that graduated early with a Standard Diploma).
Orange – Are your most AT-RISK students because they are either below grade level, have low amount of required credits, and/or their GPA is below a 2.0 all potentially preventing them from a timely graduation with their Cohort.
Light Blue – These are students that dropped out (W05, W11, W13, W15, W18, W21, W22, W23 or left and enrolled in Adult Education/GED (W26).
Blue – These students hurt you in terms of the Federal Uniform Graduation Rate Calculation Formula. These are your Special Diploma Students. (Includes any students that graduated early with a SPECIAL Diploma).
Gray – Transferred Out – Must be pulled out of your Cohort before Survey 5 is submitted, so that they are no longer part of your Cohort number of students.

IDENTIFYING THE CHALLENGE

The data is clear:

- One in four public school students in the US fails to graduate from high school.
- The decision to dropout of school is a slow, gradual process of student disengagement over time, most accurately predicting the likelihood of dropping out

(Bruce, Bridgeland, Fox, & Balfanz, 2011)

When high school student data is compiled, students are in one of several categories:

- Completely On-Track
- On-Track
- Border-Line At-Risk
- Extremely At-Risk
- Dropout

The Apex Group and school-based teams focus on Border-Line At-Risk, Extremely At-Risk, and those students who have already dropped out or are in the process of dropping out.

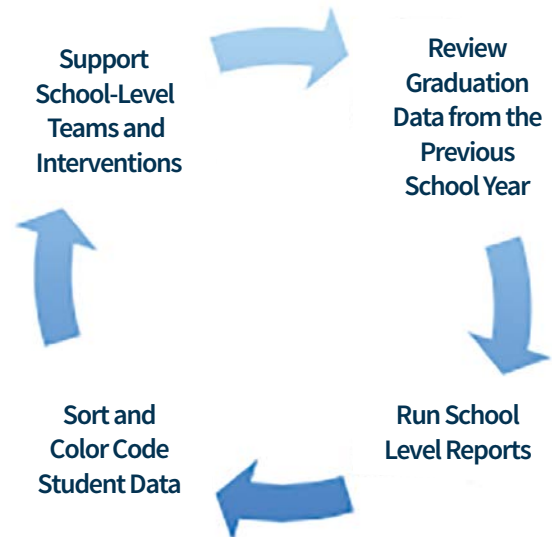
THE APEX GROUP GRAD SYSTEM PROCESS

The process consists of four steps:

- Review graduation data from the previous school years (historical depiction)
- Run school-level reports
- Sort, categorize, and analyze student data (color-coded spreadsheets)
- Provide on-going support for school level teams

Initially, The Apex Group completes a full analysis of the student-level data for the school, categorizes students based on that data (see Student Risk Template above), and provides a projected graduation rate for the school. For subsequent data analysis and student coding, The Apex Group uses a train-the-trainer model to empower school personnel to conduct future coding and analysis on their own for sustainability purposes.

Although 12th grade students are the priority, The Apex Group will also provide this process for 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students for purposes of earlier intervention and a greater chance of successful, on-time graduation.



Graduation Intervention Support

Following data analysis and coding, The Apex Group works with the school to assemble a school-level team to review student data and potential causes of student difficulty. The Apex Group provides onsite technical support to identify students and implement customized, student-specific interventions to increase the graduation rate through a series of guiding questions and technical support. The Apex Group trains school-based teams on proven methods of sustainable interventions so schools have the tools they need to ensure that more students graduate on time.